United Nations ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2014/1

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
3 April 2014

Original: English

Food and Agriculture Organization

Economic Commission for Europe

Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry

Food and Agriculture Organization

European Forestry Commission

Joint FAO/UNECE Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management

Thirty-sixth session
Geneva, 17-18 June 2014
Item 1 of the Provisional Agenda
Adoption of the Agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the thirty-sixth session[1]

Session to be held at the Palais des Nations (Room VII), Geneva, starting at 10 a.m. on Tuesday 17 June 2014.

This annotated agenda provides guidance to delegates to the Joint FAO/UNECE Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management on the structure of the meeting and main topics to be discussed.

The main issues to be considered during this session of the Working Party are:

- The new mandate of the Joint FAO/UNECE Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management
- Reports on Working Party activities according to the four new work areas
- Teams of Specialists reports to the Working Party
- In-session roundtable discussion on the reporting on forest ownership in the UNECE region

The Working Party shall, for each work area, review and comment on the activities undertaken during the past year and the plans for the forthcoming year. Further, the Working Party shall review, on an ongoing basis, the work of the Teams of Specialists and their contribution to the work areas as well as work between the Teams of Specialists to ensure the most effective and efficient implementation of their activities.

[1] Documents and more information, including the registration form, at www.unece.org/forests/wpfsem2014

GE.14-21765

1421765

Please recycle

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Outcome of the joint session of the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry (Committee) and the European Forestry Commission (Commission) highlighting implications for the Working Party
3. Report of the thematic workshop held on 16 June 2014
4. Follow-up to the recommendations from the Working Party self-evaluation made at the thirty-fifth session
5. Guidance on work areas

(a) Work area 1: Data, monitoring and assessment

- i. Implementation by the secretariat;
- ii. Reports by the Teams of Specialists (Monitoring Sustainable Forest Management, Sustainable Forest Products, Forest Products Statistics, Wood Energy);
- iii. Identification of priorities for action and relevant emerging issues;
- iv. Recommendations to the Committee and the Commission;

(b) Work area 2: Policy dialogue and advice

- i. Implementation by the secretariat;
- ii. Reports by the Teams of Specialists (Forest Policy, Forest Sector Outlook, Forest Fire);
- iii. Identification of priorities for action and relevant emerging issues;
- iv. Recommendations to the Committee and the Commission;

(c) Work area 3: Communication and outreach

- i. Implementation by the secretariat;
- ii. Report by the Team of Specialists (Forest Communication - Forest Communicators' Network);
- iii. Identification of priorities for action and relevant emerging issues;
- iv. Recommendations to the Committee and the Commission;

(d) Work area 4: Capacity-building

- i. Implementation by the secretariat;
- ii. Report by the Team of Specialists (Green Jobs in the Forest Sector);
- iii. Identification of priorities for action and relevant emerging issues;
- iv. Recommendations to the Committee and the Commission;

6. Roundtable discussion
7. Any other business
8. Election of officers
9. Adoption of the report

II. Background information

1. The Working Party is a subsidiary body of the UNECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry and the FAO European Forestry Commission. At their joint session in Rovaniemi Finland, on 13 December 2013, the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry and the European Forestry Commission adopted a new mandate for the Working Party (ECE/TIM/2013/2 - FO: EFC/2013/2).

2. The Working Party contributes to the implementation of the integrated programme of work of the two bodies. It reports to the Committee and the Commission and meets annually to:

(a) Provide guidance on the implementation of all areas of the programme of work;

(b) Review the work of Teams of Specialists and facilitate the exchange of information on their work;

(c) Identify priorities for action and relevant emerging issues; and transmit suggested priorities and specific recommendations to the Committee and the Commission for consideration.

3. The Working Party shall, for each work area, on the basis of a report from the secretariat, review and comment on the activities undertaken during the past year and the plans for the forthcoming year.

4. The Working Party shall review, on an on-going basis, the work of the Teams of Specialists and their contribution to the work areas, as well as work between the Teams of Specialists to ensure the most effective and efficient implementation of their activities. This includes:

(a) Receive and discuss the reports from the Teams of Specialists in order to enhance the understanding of their activities and assess their work plans; when needed, the Working Party may review and recommend updated mandates for endorsement by the parent bodies;

(b) Identify possible synergies; and facilitate the exchange of experiences between Teams of Specialists and delegations from member States;

(c) Increase the visibility and impact of the work of Teams of Specialists among Member States and within the relevant bodies in the United Nations.

5. The Working Party, as part of its work for the Committee and Commission, shall:

(a) Propose priorities for activities in the work areas and on relevant emerging issues;

(b) Develop, upon request from the parent bodies, methodologies for use in economic analysis of the sector, as well as techniques for collecting, validating analysing and disseminating information and statistics;

(c) Undertake, upon request from the parent bodies, ad hoc projects in economics and statistics related to forestry, forest products and forest policies and institutions;

(d) Contribute and provide technical advice to the Committee and the Commission on issues under consideration by those bodies, including the preparation of studies on the status and future of forests and on the forest industry such as the Outlook studies and the Forest Products Annual Market Reviews;

(e) Reach out to other sectors to discuss issues of common interest, including best practices in sustainable forestry management and their impact on the overall sustainability of forests, natural resources management, and other issues such as biodiversity and climate change;

(f) Work together with other international bodies, including Forest Europe, Eurostat, the International Tropical Timber Organization and the Conference of European Statisticians, with a view to coordinating activities and avoiding any duplication of effort.

6. The work of this Working Party will be assessed after its next two sessions.

7. The Working Party will focus more on future expectations and upcoming activities of the Teams of Specialists, rather than the review of past work, as the Teams were either re-established or created.

III. Annotations to the Provisional Agenda

Item 1: Adoption of the agenda

8. In accordance with the Economic Commission for Europe's rules of procedure and established practice, the first item on the agenda is the adoption of the agenda.

Item 2: Outcome of the joint session of the Committee and the Commission and implications for the Working Party

9. At its joint session in December 2013, the Committee and the Commission adopted their Integrated Programme of Work 2014-2017 (ECE/TIM/2013/2-FO/EFC/2013/2 Annex IV).

10. During the same meeting, delegates approved new terms of reference of the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management as well as the new terms of reference of the ECE/FAO Teams of Specialists (ECE/TIM/2013/2-FO/EFC/2013/2 Annex V). Both, the Integrated Programme of Work and the terms of reference for the Teams of Specialists were subsequently approved by the sixty-sixth session of the UNECE Executive Committee on 6 February 2014 (ECE/EX/10).

11. The following Teams of Specialists have been approved:

(a) Team of Specialists on Monitoring Sustainable Forest Management;

(b) Team of Specialists on Sustainable Forest Products;

(c) Team of Specialists on Forest Products Statistics;

(d) Team of Specialists on Wood Energy;

(e) Team of Specialists on the Forest Sector Outlook;

(f) Team of Specialists on Forest Policy;

(g) Team of Specialists on Forest Fire (until June 2014);

(h) Team of Specialists on Forest Communication - Forest Communicators' Network;

(i) Team of Specialists on Green Jobs - Joint ILO/ECE/FAO Expert Network.

12. The Secretariat will present a summary of the discussions of the Committee and Commission and will highlight implications for the work of the Joint FAO/UNECE Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management.

13. The Secretariat will present the current status and the next steps for the implementation of the Rovaniemi Action Plan for the Forest Sector in a Green Economy (ECE/TIM/2013/12). Delegates are invited to provide feedback and guidance on possible further action.

Item 3: Report of the thematic workshop held on 16 June 2014

14. The Secretariat will present the results of the thematic workshop held the previous day. For the consideration of the Working Party and possible follow-up.

Item 4: Follow-up on the recommendations from the Working Party self-evaluation during the thirty-fifth session

15. The secretariat will recall the outcome of the last year's self-assessment and will report on which issues have been taken into consideration. Delegates are invited to provide guidance on the results and further improvements.

Item 5: Guidance on work areas

16. Delegates are requested to review the activities of 2013 and the first half of 2014. They are also asked to review the work plans up until the next session and indicate their support or where changes are needed. This guidance should cover both work of the secretariat as well as the work and direction of the Team of Specialists.

17. The secretariat will report on the nomination process for experts to participate in the Teams of Specialists. Reports on the activities of the Teams of Specialists will be made available before the meeting. Each Team of Specialists will report under its core work area as reflected below:

(a) Work area 1: Data, monitoring and assessment

i. Implementation by the secretariat;

ii. Report by the Team of Specialists (Monitoring Sustainable Forest Management, Sustainable Forest Products, Forest Products Statistics, Wood Energy);

iii. Identification of priorities for action and relevant emerging issues;

iv. Recommendations to the Committee and the Commission;

(b) Work area 2: Policy dialogue and advice

i. Implementation by the secretariat;

ii. Report by the Teams of Specialists (Forest Policy, Forest Sector Outlook, Forest Fire);

iii. Identification of priorities for action and relevant emerging issues;

iv. Recommendations to the Committee and the Commission;

(c) Work area 3: Communication and outreach

i. Implementation by the secretariat;

ii. Report by the Team of Specialists on Forest Communication - Forest Communicators' Network;

iii. Identification of priorities for action and relevant emerging issues;

iv. Recommendations to the Committee and the Commission;

(d) Work area 4: Capacity-building

i. Implementation by the secretariat;

ii. Report by the Team of Specialists Green Jobs in the Forest Sector;

iii. Identification of priorities for action and relevant emerging issues;

iv. Recommendations to the Committee and the Commission;

Item 6: Roundtable discussion

18. During the self-evaluation by the 2013 Working Party there was a clear desire to *"encourage and facilitate roundtables during Working Party meetings to stimulate more in-depth discussions on key issues"*. The secretariat seeks advice from countries on the reporting of forest ownership in the UNECE region.

19. The secretariat will circulate the draft version of the questionnaire on forest ownership to the meeting. Delegates are encouraged to discuss the structure and content of the questionnaire with respective experts in their country before the session.

20. The secretariat will invite key people and experts involved in the reporting on forest ownership to present the key objectives and expected outcomes from this assessment. After the introduction of the topic, delegates are invited to provide feedback to the proposed process, structure and methodology. The results of the discussion will be used for amending and improving the reporting.

Item 7: Other business

21. At the time of this document's submission, the Secretariat had no matters for discussion under this item. Delegates should feel free to raise issues that are of concern to them prior to, or when this agenda item is open for discussion.

Item 8: Date and place of next meeting

22. The Secretariat proposes to return to the practice of meeting in March (this year's meeting was an exception). March is better given the workload of the secretariat. An early meeting in the year also offers the opportunity to incorporate the topics discussed and decisions taken during the meeting in the annual data collection process, as well as in the production of the Forest Products Annual Market Review. The secretariat proposes organizing the next meeting on 19 and 20 March 2015 in Geneva. The meeting would thus precede the international day of forest to be held on 21 March 2015. Delegates are invited to discuss the date, as well as how the Working Party 2015 could be linked to the international day of forests and/or whether a workshop should be organized before the meeting.

Item 9: Election of officers

23. The Working Party is expected to elect a Chair and two Vice-Chairs. At its thirty-fifth session, the Working Party re-elected Ms. E. Maki-Simola (Finland) as Chair, Mr. A. Mariano (Italy) and Mr. J. Hangler (Austria) as Vice-Chairs to hold office until the end of the thirty-sixth session.

Item 10: Adoption of the report

24. The Working Party will be invited to adopt the report of its session on the basis of a draft prepared by the secretariat.

IV. Tentative timetable

25. The secretariat proposes the following tentative timetable:

Monday, 16 June 2014

10:00 – 18:00	Workshop / Team of Specialists meetings (in parallel)
	[Team of Specialists on Sustainable Forest Products; Team of Specialists on Forest Products Statistics; Team of Specialists on Wood Energy; Team of Specialists on the Forest Sector Outlook; Team of Specialists on Green Jobs]

Joint FAO/UNECE Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management, Thirty-sixth session

Tuesday, 17 June 2014

10:00 – 13:00	Items 1-5
15:00 – 18:00	Item 5 continued

Wednesday, 18 June 2013

10:00 – 13:00	Item 5 continued
15:00 – 16:45	Items 6 – Roundtable
16:45 – 18:00	Items 7-10

IV. List of important abbreviations and acronyms

COFFI	Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry
EFC	European Forestry Commission
EXCOM	UNECE Executive Committee
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
ILO	International Labour Organization
ITTO	International Tropical Timber Organization
JFSQ	Joint Forest Sector Questionnaire
JWPFSEM	Joint Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
SFM	Sustainable Forest Management
UNDA	United Nations Development Account
ToR	Terms of Reference
ToS	Team of Specialists
WA	work area